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SOURCE Pravda Vostoka.

# HITS UZBEK FAILURE IN SPACE-SAVING DRIVE

The socialist competition for better utilization of industrial fixed capital is a powerful lever in the battle to realize the Stalin program for the reconstruction and development of the national economy. Increasing the output per square meter of plant space and per unit of industrial equipment is to achieve a new growth in production and a cut in production costs without additional capital investment. The movement for better utilization of fixed capital, universally taken up in response to the initiative of the [88] leading Moscow enterprises, has already saved hundreds of millions of rubles and freed vast quantities of materials and equipment for the needs of the national economy.

Within the enterprises of Uzbekistan there are huge reserves for growth of production through better utilization of fixed capital. These potentialities, however, are far from being realized. The fact is that at many enterprises in the republic, the drive was taken up only as a temporary campaign.

One finds plant managers who instead of uncovering the internal potentialities of their enterprises try to achieve production increases only through new capital investments in expanded space and purchase of new equipment. Meanwhile, analysis of the operations of these enterprise reveals that hundreds and thousands of square meters of production space are not utilized and that a considerable part of the production equipment park is in storage, out of order, or operating at low efficiency.

The managers of these enterprises are forgetting one of the fundamental principles of economics -- that the volume of production is directly proportional to the amount of operative equipment and the degree of its utilization. Take the Tashkent Tool Plant (Murashev, director; Ankudinov, chief engineer): Only 81.6 percent of the plant's machine-tool park is set up for work. Of this percentage, only two-thirds are actually in use. This is one explanation for the plant's failing to complete its year plan and for its going over its planned production costs. In shop No 1, the lathe section is a bottleneck. Its failure to get out its work in proper volume causes periodic standstills on one-fifth of the shop's machine tools. There is room for six more lathes in the lathe section, and the lathes are available -- in storage.

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## CLASSIFICATION

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Conversion to high-speed cutting would help the situation, and a few stakhanovites have made the change-over. But the plant management has done nothing to push a general introduction of high-speed methods.

Equally bad situations exist in several other machine-building plants of the Uzbek SSR. The actual operating time of machine tools at the Chirchik Sredazhkhimmash (Central Asian Chemical-Machine Building) Plant represents only 73.4 percent of the planned operating time and only 40.7 percent of the calendar year.

The Tashtekstil'mash (Tashkent Textile-Machine Building) Plant had its production equipment in operation only 37.7 percent of the last calendar quarter. If the existing equipment were worked in two shifts, the plant could double its output.

Such improper planning of working time is among the key reasons behind poor utilization of equipment. At the Tashkent Tool Plant, for instance, the planned operating time last year amounted to only 42 percent of the calendar time; at the Sredazhkhimmash Plant, only 55 percent; at the Tashtekstil'mash Plant, 38 percent (during the fourth quarter). Planning of work time for specific machines at these plants occasionally reaches the point of complete absurdity. At the Tashtekstil'mash Plant, for instance, the lathes are supposed to operate 97.3 percent of their planned operating time. In the same breath, the idling time for these same machines is supposed to be 53 percent of the planned operating time. In other words, "planned operating time" is 150.3 percent of itself. Equally absurd principles of planning are applied to semiautomatics, milling machines, presses and other equipment.

Party and trade-union organizations of every industrial establishment must see that the drive for utilization of fixed capital does not end in a short campaign. It is vital that the industry of our republic get its fixed capital reserves into action. -- Ye. Futerman, Chief, Industrial Credit Section, Uzbek Republic Office, Gosbank; and S. Yaroslavskiy, Credit Inspector

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